

WASHINGTON POST

19 Sep 76

Belenko, Viktor

~~SOCY. 21. 11. 1976~~  
STERN

## U.S., Japanese Experts To Study Mig, Tokyo Says

From News Dispatches

Japanese and American experts will dismantle and inspect the top-secret supersonic Soviet Mig-25 flown to Japan by a defecting Russian pilot, a Japanese government spokesman in Tokyo said yesterday.

"We received word through the Foreign Ministry that the U.S. military promised to cooperate 'under Japan's initiative' for dismantling, transferring and inspecting" the plane, the spokesman said. "We plan to begin dismantling the jet Sunday."

Meanwhile, the West German weekly news magazine Stern reported yesterday that the Soviet pilot, 1st Lt. Viktor Belenko, was persuaded to defect by an Austrian engineer working for the Central Intelligence Agency.

The magazine said Japanese authorities were told to expect the pilot's arrival at least 10 days before the jet, codenamed Foxbat by NATO, touched down at a Japanese civilian airport Sept. 6.

Quoting reliable Western sources, Stern said the pilot was first approached in August 1974 at an East-West symposium on space and high-level flight being held at Tsakhikadzor in the Soviet Republic of Armenia. The Austrian engineer who reportedly approached Belenko was not identified by the magazine.

The Soviet flyer was one of three Mig-25 pilots who had been selected by the CIA as a possible defector, the magazine said. Belenko spoke good English and was having difficulties with his superior officers, according to Stern.

The difficulties culminated shortly before his defection in a disciplinary hearing at which Belenko was accused of "luxurious extravagances." He was penalized by being posted to a Siberian base.

There was no explanation of why if Belenko were under a cloud the Soviets allowed him to keep flying the Mig-25.

At the time of his defection, Stern said, Belenko's jet was escorted by another Mig-25 on a patrol flight. To lose the escort, the report said, Belenko feigned engine trouble and slowed down his jet to save fuel.

Following emergency procedures, the escort circled over the supposedly disabled jet until its own fuel supply ran too low for it to pursue Belenko's suddenly accelerating plane, Stern said.

Belenko was granted asylum in the United States a week ago.

There was no U.S. comment on the Japanese report that Japanese and U.S. experts will dismantle the Mig. The Kyodo news service reported that Lt. Gen. Walter T. Galligan, commander of U.S. forces in Japan, had met with Japanese air self defense force authorities.

There have been reports that the agency hopes to borrow a giant American C-5A transport plane to transfer the Soviet aircraft from Hakodate airport in northern Japan, where it landed, to a Japanese air base.

The aircraft flies at speeds of up to 2,000 miles per hour at 80,000 feet.

Informed sources have said the aircraft is less advanced than previously believed. They compared it with a "manned rocket," the sources said one of the biggest surprises is that it has no parachute ejection gear for the pilot.

The plane was described as a high-altitude, high-speed interceptor rather than a fighter.

The Soviet Union has demanded repeatedly that the jet be returned.

STAT

Approved For Release 2005/01/11 : CIA-RDP88-01314R000300620003-2

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